

relative to improving risk adjustment in Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-11735. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report involving exports to the Kingdom of Thailand; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-11736. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report involving exports India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-11737. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessment of Fees; National Banks; District of Columbia Banks" (RIN1557-AB72) received on December 1, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-11738. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11739. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, the semiannual report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11740. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, the report covering fiscal year 2000 activities; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-11741. A communication from the Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs), Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to postponing the effective date for assessing a \$50.00 fee for the Affidavit of Support, Form I-864; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-11742. A communication from the Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs), Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to incorporating in visa regulations a complementary rule to a recent amendment of the Schedule of Fees; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-11743. A communication from the Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs), Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to establishing a new effective date for the phase-in of a new procedure for payment of certain immigrant visa fees; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-640. A resolution adopted by the House of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to timber harvesting; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

POM-641. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of South Carolina relative to taxes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, separation of powers is fundamental to the United States Constitution

and the power of the federal government is strictly limited; and

Whereas, under the United States Constitution, the states are to determine public policy; and

Whereas, it is the duty of the judiciary to interpret the law, not to create law; and

Whereas, our present federal government has strayed from the intent of our founding fathers and the United States Constitution through inappropriate federal mandates; and

Whereas, these mandates by way of statute, rule, or judicial decision have forced state governments to serve as the mere administrative arm of the federal government; and

Whereas, federal district courts, with the acquiescence of the United States Supreme Court, continue to order states to levy or increase taxes to comply with federal mandates, in violation of the United States Constitution and the legislative process; and

Whereas, the time has come for the people of this nation and their elected representatives in state government to reaffirm that the authority to tax under the Constitution of the United States is retained by the people who, by their consent alone, do delegate such power to tax explicitly to those elected representatives in the legislative branch of government whom they choose, and that the representatives are directly responsible and accountable to those who have elected them; and

Whereas, several states have petitioned the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America which was previously introduced in Congress; and

Whereas, the amendment seeks to prevent federal courts from levying or increasing taxes without representation of the people and against the people's wishes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring; That the Congress of the United States is hereby memorialized to amend the Constitution of the United States and submit to the states for ratification an amendment which adds a new article providing as follows: "Neither to instruct or order a state or political subdivision thereof, or an official of such a state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes." Be it further

Resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Pursuant to a unanimous consent agreement of December 5, 2000, the following nominations were discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Larry Carp, of Missouri, to be an Alternative Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Jay T. Snyder, of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REID:

S. 3272. A bill to establish the Great Basin National Heritage Area, Nevada and Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3273. A bill to require the Federal Election Commission to study voting procedures in Federal elections, award Voting Improvement Grants to States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 3274. A bill to expand homeownership in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3273. A bill to require the Federal Election Commission to study voting procedures in Federal elections, award Voting Improvement Grants to States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

VOTING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, in the era of the Internet, in the era of the microchip, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, I am concerned that the most prosperous, productive and inventive nation in the world conducts its elections for its highest offices in some areas in ways that are outdated, slow, inaccurate, and inaccessible to many.

That is why, Mr. President, I rise as an original sponsor of the "Voting Study and Improvement Act," which I am proud to introduce today with my colleague CHUCK SCHUMER of New York.

The long national nightmare that the 2000 Presidential election has become has taught us, Republican and Democrat alike, that we need to improve the instruments of voting and the means of electing our federal office holders.

Both rural and urban areas have unique difficulties not only with accessibility to voting, but also in funding improvements in their voting systems. A rural State like Kansas has problems with voting that are different than those faced by a State such as New York. Our legislation recognizes these differences, and will allow each State to implement the changes they believe are best for them. What is the best system for voting in Kansas may not be the best system for voting in New York. What is the best system for voting in some parts of Kansas may not be